



09 October 2003

Recreation Center Project on Track

Ground breaking set for Nov. 8

By Virginia Arrigucci
Whalesong Staff

The \$15-million UAS Recreation Facility project is progressing well toward its summer 2005 opening. The road has been punched through, the building site preparation is nearing completion and bids for construction of the 53,000-square-foot building will be opened this month. Although completion may seem to be in the distant future, both students and faculty are already anxiously awaiting the many amenities the facility will have to offer, and will be excited to see actual construction begin this spring.

The center, which will hold its groundbreaking Nov. 8 this fall, is a joint project between UAS and the Army National Guard. Although such a partnership may seem to be an odd match, it is highly regarded as a win/win situation. Part of what makes the two so compatible is that the National Guard will only need the shared portions of the facility one weekend per month. The two organizations are working closely together in planning, and it will be common to see many of the shared areas having dual purposes.

UAS Facilities Director, Keith Gerken, stated that construction should always be done with two things in mind: minimal impact and mitigation. A smaller parking lot was negotiated and grass fields were removed from the original plan to lessen damage to the low to medium quality wetlands. Fish habitat improvement in Bay Creek, which is located about 100 feet away from the construction site, was also done as a way of giving back. Gerken added that he will be working with the local organization Trail Mix to construct a path from housing to the Recreation Center.

Among the features of the center will be an indoor running track, two practice courts, one full size court, a dance studio, and a fitness room. The current climbing wall at the Student Activities Center will be relocated and given an additional 10 feet of vertical climbing space. Extensive equipment rental and outdoor literature will be provided, and an activities center will host dances and films.

But perhaps the greatest benefit of the UAS Recreation Facility will be seen in student life. A recreation center is, "a vital part of the core of any university," commented Tish Griffin Satre, Director of Student Activities. This is something that has been "missing for a long time," and with its addition we will be able to see "growth and maturity of the university," she added.

Finally having our own facility also gives UAS the possibility to see the return of intercollegiate sports, a focal point of many universities, Griffin Satre said. While this may not be immediate, a strong

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Above: Constuction on road entry to Rec Center

Photo by Virginia Arrigucci

Below: The work continuing beyond the road entrance, at the site.

Photo by Kevin Myers



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EDITORIAL & OPINION

The Whalesong

The student voice
of UAS

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The University of Alaska Southeast student newspaper, *The Whalesong*, is a free bi-monthly publication with a circulation of 1000 copies per issue. The Whalesong's primary audience includes students, faculty, staff, and community members.

The Whalesong will strive to inform and entertain its readers, analyze and provide commentary on the news, and serve as a public forum for the free exchange of ideas.

The staff of *The Whalesong* values freedom of expression and encourages reader response. *The Whalesong* editorial staff assumes no responsibility for the content of material. The views and opinions contained in this paper in no way represent the University of Alaska, and reflect only those of the author(s).

Letter from the Editor

Dear UAS Students, Faculty, Staff, and
Community members,

As Editor of the *Whalesong*, I hope to enhance your experience at UAS by keeping you informed and providing you with an outlet to voice your opinions and concerns about issues involving you and your university. I have plans to expand the scope covered by the *Whalesong* to include environmental issues, politics, happenings in the Juneau community, as well as the regular features, movie reviews, comics, and all the other great stuff you have come to expect from our newspaper.

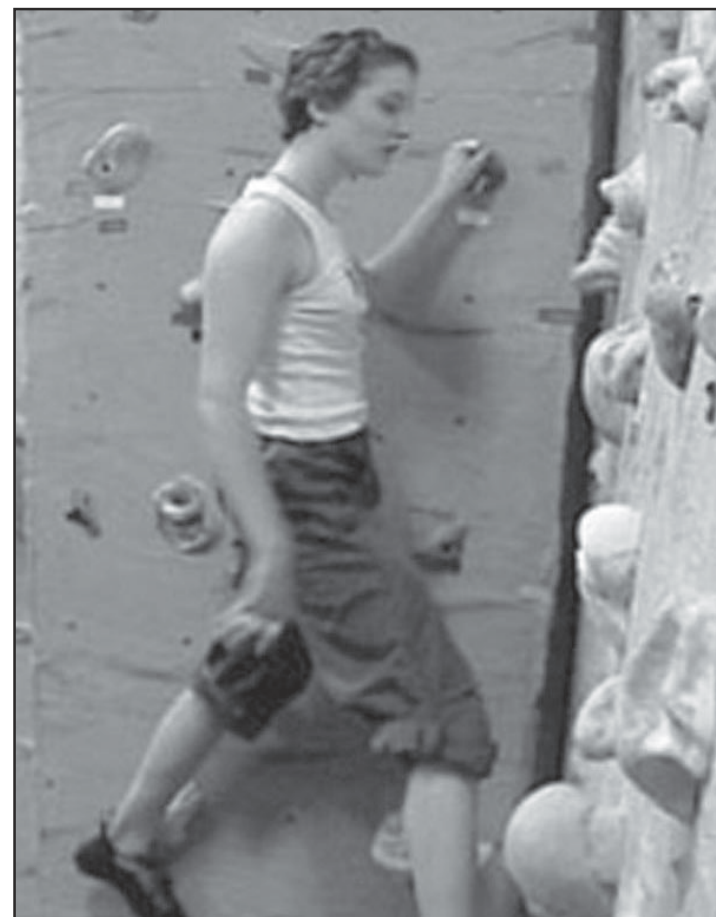
I also want to encourage you to sing aloud! The *Whalesong* is your newspaper. Help us make it better. Students, faculty and staff are always welcome to send us comments, story or column ideas, or even contributions via email at jywhale@uas.alaska.edu.

I want to also encourage community members to get involved. UAS is a part of your community, and contributing to the *Whalesong* is a great way to get students involved in Juneau-wide events and issues.

I look forward to working with you, and I truly appreciate your support!

Cheers,

Amy L. Sumner
Editor, *Whalesong*



The Patriot Act: Destroying YOUR Rights, Death Squad Style

By Chris Grinder
Whalesong Contributor

What you should probably be asking yourself before you read this article is, "what is worse: the small chance of you being completely annihilated by terrorist swine or having the freedoms of living in America taken away from you?" I hope for many of you who may be reading this (or lining your birdcage with it) would be willing to die for freedom, but if you would rather live in this false security blanket called the Patriot Act you probably shouldn't read this.

On October 26, 2001, a month and a few weeks after September 11 occurred, our brilliant president King George the second signed the USA Patriot Act into law. Now what some of you may be asking yourself is, 'what is the Patriot Act all about?' The USAPA was at one time a 342- page bill that made drastic changes to 15 separate statutes, changes that alter the freedoms citizens of this super country once had before 9/11 happened. This law gives power to domestic law enforcement (JPD) and international intelligence agencies (CIA & FBI) to use surveillance tools like wiretaps, search warrants, subpoenas, and so on without the checks and balances courts once had to make sure these agencies weren't abusing surveillance operations. This goes without saying that these agencies have the power to go, do, and observe suspicious hooligans. Ohhhh . . . and did I mention what kind of hooligans could be under surveillance? . . . Anyone that these agencies feel is part of a terrorist organization, which seems a bit

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Charles Bertram KRT

Our president defending our government's rights to random persecution.

Letters to the Editor

The Whalesong gladly accepts letters to the editor. Letters may not exceed 300 words, and may be edited for length, clarity, and grammar. Letters must be signed and include a means of contact for verification. Send your letters to 11120 Glacier Highway, Juneau, AK 99801, whalesong@uas.alaska.edu, by fax to (907) 465-6399, or bring them to Room 102, Maurant Bldg.

Your rights continued from page 2

broad for their advantage.

A terrorist could range from anyone who protests unjust wars, like me, or someone who gives lectures which contradict the words of our beloved president Dubya (David Noon Professor of history here at UAS). The basic idea is that anyone could be looked at as a terrorist from a certain angle and have surveillances put in their area of living. Since information agencies have access to watch over the internet like "Big Brother" out of the book 1984 by Orson Wells, students at UAS could use a famous search engine like Google, type in "weapons of mass destruction" or "anarchy," and the FBI has a reason to follow you through cyber space and consider you a threat to the freedom of America. Of course there are people right now that have been brought to justice because of the Patriot Act, which may make some of you feel that this is a good thing....well... you be the judge of that.

In June of this year a man in California was charged with "terrorism using a weapon of mass destruction" after a pipe bomb he made exploded in his lap while in his vehicle, hurting no one but himself. Another man in North Carolina was charged with manufacturing chemical weapons because of running a metham-

phetamine lab. If this man is convicted he will get 12 years to life, when before the USAPA he would have only gotten six months. These two examples are funny considering that the USAPA was made a law to hunt down al-Qaida cells, but is only being used on US citizens who commit somewhat "common crimes." What I mean by common crimes is crimes that do not involve crashing a plane into a federal building.

Although I have probably sickened most of you in some way or another, there is some good news or bad news for those who seem to think giving intelligence agencies the right to eavesdrop and watch over you because "they" think you are a terrorist. The first part of this good news is that more than 150 local governments have passed resolutions opposing the law as an "overly broad threat to constitutional rights." The other good news is that this unconstitutional law will expire on December 31, 2005, unless renewed by Congress. So for those of you readers who would like the freedom to say you don't agree with something the president says, raise your voice to a new level and put an end to the Patriot Act. (For more information look for the EFF analysis of the provisions of the USAPA on the web, or ask David Noon for an in depth explanation).

Time is passing, are you?

By Amy Sumner
Whalesong Editor

Stressed already? In order to avoid the hassles of beginning the semester on the wrong foot, here are some helpful tips for the new, and the not-so-new, student:

First off, look at your class syllabi. They are full of useful information regarding the professor's expectations, course assignments, and grading criteria. Everything you need to succeed in your classes will be listed in the course syllabus. If the syllabus is not clear, speak with your professor about your concerns. The syllabus should be your first tool in preparing your own course agendas.

Secondly, if you are running into problems with your homework, seek help. There are plenty of opportunities to get the assistance you need. UAS has an excellent tutoring staff at the Learning Center located on the first floor of the Egan Library. In addition, some classes have an assigned Teaching Assistant, who is also available to help students. Furthermore, UAS professors are generally available during posted office hours or by appointment. If nothing else, work together with your classmates in study groups, as they, too, can be a valuable

resource.

Thirdly, get involved at UAS and make your learning experience enjoyable. Extracurricular activities are the best way to relieve stress, meet new people, and even enhance the skills you learn in class. UAS offers a diverse range of student clubs, activities, and events. Students are encouraged to make use of the Student Activities Center (SAC), which features a climbing wall, pool tables, air hockey, and outdoor equipment rentals. If you are enrolled in seven or more credits, there is no charge to use the SAC. Full-time students also have access to the Juneau Racquet Club (JRC) during select hours at no charge. JRC weekday hours are, in the afternoon, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. and, in the evenings, from 8:45 p.m. to 10:30 p.m., and weekend hours are from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m., as well as 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

If you plan ahead and get help when it's needed, instead of falling into that viscous cycle of procrastination, you will be successful in your classes. But don't forget to have fun, as even the most dedicated of people need a break from work. It's all about finding a healthy balance and establishing good habits.

Evening at Egan

4th Annual
Fall Lecture Series

"Why Math?"

Friday, October 10

Mathematics Chair Brian Blitz and the Math Faculty explain the use of math in our daily lives.

"Ode to Joy: Beethoven and the Revolutionary Enlightenment in Music"

Friday, October 17

Juneau Symphony Music Director Kyle Wylie Pickett and Associate Professor of History Robin Walz will host a multimedia presentation on Beethoven and the Revolutionary Enlightenment in music.

All presentations are at 7 p.m. in the Egan Lecture Hall at the UAS Auke Bay campus. The lectures are free and open to the public.

The Learning Center (TLC) & The Testing Center (TTC)

UAS Juneau Campus
Egan Library, Rooms 101 & 102
(907) 465-6348

www.uas.alaska.edu/TLC

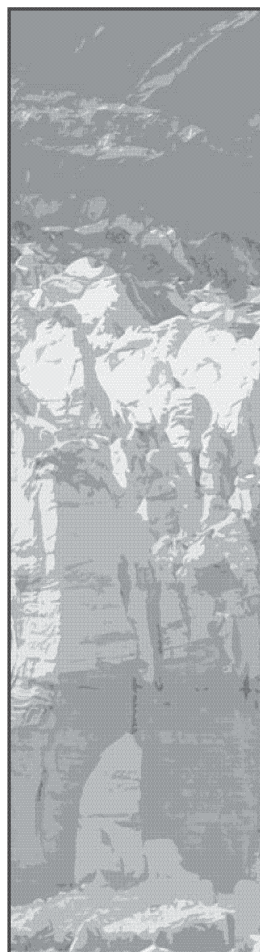
Day of Week	The Learning Center	The Testing Center
Mon	9am-8pm	9am-8pm
Tues	9am-8pm	9pm-8pm
Wed	9am-8pm	9pm-8pm
Thur	9am-8pm	9am-8pm
Fri	9am-5pm	9am-5pm
Sat	closed	closed
Sun	1pm-8pm	1pm-8pm

Thanksgiving Break: Nov 27-28, closed

Fall 2003 Schedule

Regular Hours: Sept 2-Dec 12

Come to Egan Library Room 101 to work with TLC tutors. TLC currently offers tutoring in math, writing, science, and foreign languages. We welcome students at all levels of achievement. If you need a tutor for other subjects please let us know and we will do our best to accommodate you. Online writing tutoring is also available from our website. The current semester's schedule is posted within TLC.



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Campus & Community

Student Enrollment Down Slightly, Retention Improves

By Amy Sumner
Whalesong Editor

Last Fall, UAS started the school year with a record-breaking student enrollment, but this year's numbers show a slight decrease. According to Paul Kraft, UAS Dean of Students and Enrollment Management, the number of full-time students attending the Juneau campus decreased from 2,174 students in Fall 2002 to 2,074 students for 2003, a 4.6 percent decrease. Including the Ketchikan and Sitka campuses, UAS as a whole decreased from the 2002 enrollment of 3,363 students to 3,260 students this year, a 3.1 percent decrease.

Kraft, however, says these num-

bers don't tell the whole story. The university's aggressive action against non-payment may have skewed the data. According to Kraft, students who were enrolled in classes, but were not actually attending due to non-payment were accounted for in last year's numbers until September 13th. "So, in real numbers, UAS enrollment is about even," Kraft said.

Enrollment may be flat-lined, but retention rates are improving. According to Vicki Orazem, Vice Provost of Student Success, 45 of the 76 freshmen enrolled in Fall 2002 returned to UAS this year as sophomores, totaling about 60 percent. Of the previous freshmen class, only 46 out of 85, or ap-

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Students enjoying the sun and cranking away at registration.

Photo by Kevin Myers



English Professor Likes Her New Environment

By Sofya Boganova
Whalesong Staff

With teaching and research interests in "English and environment," Dr. Susan Lucas decided to change her environment- -trading in the desert of Nevada for the rainforest of Southeast Alaska.

Lucas, a native Texan, came to UAS this fall after teaching and earning her Ph.D. in English, with an emphasis in Literature and the Environment at the University of Nevada, Reno. She earned her M. A. in English and B. A. in English (with a minor in Spanish) at Southwest Texas State in San Marcos.

She is busy teaching three classes this semester including nature writing and literature and the environment. She has been impressed by the interesting diversity of students here, the growing number of programs, and her faculty colleagues.

She has quickly adopted her new home and has taken advantage of the many hiking and bird watching opportunities available in the Juneau area. "The Alaska environment offers opportunities to expand my research into new and different areas," Lucas said.

Student and Community Submissions

Student and community submissions are both welcomed and encouraged at The Whalesong. Send them to 11120 Glacier Hwy, Juneau, AK 99801, jywhale@uas.alaska.edu, by fax to (907) 465-6399, or bring them to Room 102, Mourant Bldg.

Vicki's Views

Introducing a New Column



The Wcalesong will be featuring a column brought to you by your Vice Provost of Student Success, Dr. Vicki Orazem. Vicki provides leadership and administrative support for the university wide retention initiatives, advising initiatives, and a full spectrum of outreach activities that foster and encourage academic success of undergraduate students.

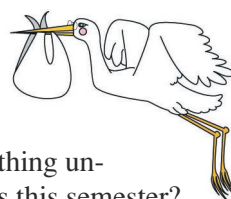
Vicki holds a M.Ed. from Montana State University, and a Ph.D. from the University of Wyoming. Her dissertation, "Understanding Why They Stay, and Why They Leave" examined issues of retention and persistence for undecided students.

She also teaches graduate courses on College Students and Social Equity in Education. She also has extensive experience in first year programs and student leadership. Her knowledge of retention programming has been recognized on the regional, national, and international levels.

In her upcoming column, Vicki will be providing her views on retention, student services and support, academic advising, and registration. This column will keep students informed on the many upcoming institutional changes and allow students to ask questions or provide comments on issues concerning them. So here is your chance to get involved UAS! Vicki's first feature, which will be published in our next issue, will tackle concerns about the Learning Center. If you have any questions or comments regarding the Learning Center, please address them to the Wcalesong office via the drop box outside of the Student Activities office on the first floor of Mourant, or via email at jywhale@uas.alaska.edu. All questions and comments must be received by: Oct 13th

What the Heck's in the Water?

By Kecia Medina
Wcalesong Contributor



Have you noticed anything unusual around campus this semester? Have you been blinded by the sparkle of gems hugging the fourth finger, left hand of some of our female students? Well, what about the increasing weight gain that mysteriously happens to be appearing only around the middle girth of certain beloved students, faculty and staff alike? Have you tried to drop in and say hi to last semester's faculty only to find their office now occupied by a stranger? Well, if you have had the opportunity, in between running around from the bookstore to Records and Registration, to stop and smell the flowers then there is no way that you could possibly have missed the fact that this campus is bursting out (no pun intended) with radiant expectant mothers and blushing brides to be.



The Wcalesong will be starting a column to highlight new and expectant mothers as well as blushing brides and newlyweds. We'll also be highlighting helpful tips from already experienced long term married couples as well as veteran parents. So if you are wandering around the halls and happen to notice a delicate tummy swell or a sparkling ring then by all means report them to me at the Wcalesong. Also if you happen to be one of those lucky expectant parents or a blushing bride, a bashful groom, or perhaps someone with experience in the ways of marriage or child rearing, please share your secrets of success with new comers. In the next issue of "What the Heck's In the Water" we'll have pictures of babies, brides, and bellies from all over the university. So if you want to submit a picture of your cutie baby (Sonograms are okay-it's never too early to start collecting baby pictures), and/or wedding or engagement announcement, please drop it off at the Wcalesong. Until then – as they say in Mexico, "Don't Drink The Water!"

Happy Halloween



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Arts & Entertainment

Things To Do

Oct. 7

CBJ Election Day- -Don't forget to vote!

Ice Cream Social at 2:00 p.m. in Mourant Cafeteria

Oct. 9

Italian Extravaganza, 5:00-6:30 p.m. in Mourant Cafeteria

Oct. 10

L' Auberge Espanol, Goldtown Nickelodeon
Plays until the 12th, times vary

Why Math? UAS Evening at Egan lecture series,
7:00 p.m.

Oct. 11

World Cup, third place games at the SAC from
noon to 3 p.m.

Imposter Trumpet Recital with Rick Trostel & Sharon Cooper, Aldersgate Church, 7:30 p.m.,
tickets available at Hearthside and at the door.

Oct. 12

World Cup Finals at the SAC from 8:30 a.m. to
noon

UAS Bowling Night at Channel Bowl from 9:00 to
11:00 p.m.

Oct. 16

Chinese Dinner, Mourant Cafeteria, 5:00 to 6:30
p.m.

Oct. 17

The Cuckoo, Goldtown Nickelodeon
Plays until the 19th, times vary

Ode to Joy: Beethoven and the Revolutionary Enlightenment in Music UAS Evening at Egan
lecture series, 7:00 p.m

Oct 18

Alaska Day

JAHc presents the **Paris Piano Trio**, Northern
Light United Church, 8:00 p.m., tickets available at
Hearthside and at the door.

LuLu LaFever and Hot Tamales Dance, SAC,
8:00 p.m.

Oct. 23

Homecoming BBQ, from 5:00-6:30 p.m., Mourant
Cafeteria

More to come in the Oct. 21st issue!

Once Upon a Time

Another Bad Sequel

By Evelyn Cushing
Production Manager

A review of *Once Upon a Time in Mexico*, a
movie directed by Robert Rodriguez starring
Antonio Banderes, Salma Hayek, Johnny Depp,
made as a sequel to *Desperado* and *El Mariachi*

It seems like Hollywood has dropped to a money-grubbing-lack-of-creativity full time low. The new trend is movies these days is to take wonderful movies and milk them for all they're worth by making a horrible sequel to it. *El Mariachi* was a decent movie, *Desperado* was a wonderful movie because Rodriguez did an excellent job of taking the basic storyline used in *El Mariachi* and making it better. Apparently that really only works once. Again, Rodriguez must have thought, "Hey, it worked last time, I'll just do it again." On it's own *Once upon a time in Mexico* might not have been bad, but as a sequel the main problem with it was that there was absolutely no creativity in the plot, after a while the same thing just gets old. They had the money, the cast, and the crew to make this movie great and they failed due to lack of creativity.

Well it wasn't quite as bad as I'm making it out to be. It was entertaining in that no-brain-involvement kind of way. The actors to their credit tried to work with what they had, but due to horrible directing their true talents were unfortunately hidden. Check it, this guy actually succeeded in making Johnny Depp look



like a bad actor. Or perhaps Depp knew the movie was so awful he couldn't bring it upon himself to exert energy into it. The cinematography wasn't bad, but nothing to write home about, and of course there's some "really cool explosions, dude."

The one thing I really did like about it was that I got to practice my Spanish. Seeing how the movie was set in hmmm Mexico, it only makes sense. It still wasn't absolutely spanish like *El Mariachi* but they didn't completely avoid using it. They did screw up a pretty key translation for semi-obvious political reasons. So I left the theater with a sour taste in my mouth and a sickness in my stomach that might go away only now that I've vented about this awful movie.

Warms You Thrice: Thoughts On An Autumn Ritual

Poem by: Sarah Carter

The chainsaw bucked these woody rounds
neatly stacked by my blistered hands. Strengthened biceps. Aching back.
My winter's future heat sheltered from a plying symphony
of persistent rain on the woodshed's green tin roof.
Plink. Plink. Plinkety. Plinkety- -soothing, running, dripping
Forming a stream of it's own through glacial till.

* * * * *

Four posts, each with knots and grainy, wiggly character, hold up the musical roof.
In the far back corner sits last year's collection which I should lug to the front.
Light and dry- -rid of green moisture that once pulsed through its sturdy trunk to the fresh,
lively branch tips- -destined now to burn. Burn. Burn.
I look forward to crisp winter mornings when a few rounds will be chosen, placed on the
glistening frosted block.
Thwack. The maul will cut through coolness and cleave the tight rings with a thud.
These same wiry arms with blisters healed will carry bundles of split firewood inside.
The pot bellied stove will digest each round.
The heat will rise
And warm me a third time.



Politics

What Does the United Students of UAS-JC Have in Store?

By Kaci Hamilton
Whalesong Contributor

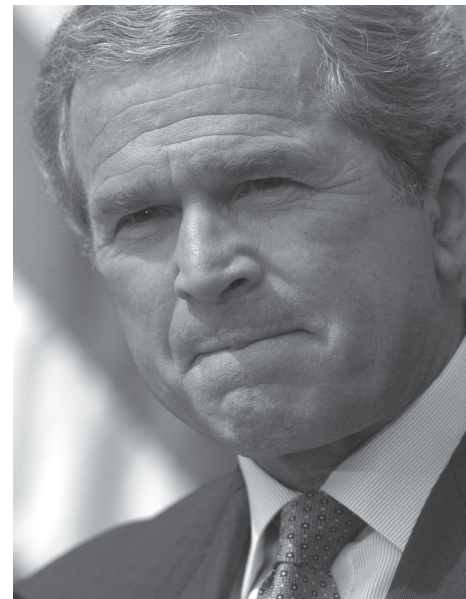
Students, friends, it's that time of year again when we are all back from crazy summer and already our teachers want us to write papers. No more time for fun and you all you have are bills, including that Student Government fee of \$45! You are probably wondering to yourself what is that fee going to. Well, it goes to things that benefit you, the students, in the forms of clubs, discounted theatre tickets and ski-lift passes, the Whalesong, Stress Week, the UAS recycling project and much more. Still, my fair ones there are so many more things that can be done with that \$45.

UAS is small campus and sometimes it's tough to get things going and get students all rallied up. Nonetheless, this year, I as President, with the help of my officers, want to establish activities that can be academic, entertaining and potentially long-lasting. I have been thinking a lot about fundraising, and I would love to organize several events this coming year that involve the students, staff and faculty. Events that will bring these three sometimes very separate groups together. Some ideas I have are, faculty vs. student sporting events or tournaments, concerts, Student Olympics, flag football games, just to name a few. Some of these events have already been attempted at and other versions are already in place. However, I feel that there is so much that can be done with that fee that you as students pay.

Other potentials that I plan to work on personally during my term are a Debate Team, a scholarship for international students, noon-time musicians in the cafeteria, Student Discounts and volunteer days. I also hope to work in conjunction with the Global Connections club to bring more cultural speakers on campus. These activities and events are not impossible to get into the air, yet they are not promises.

The United Students of UAS-JC truly have the interests of all students at heart and we encourage you to visit our office and stop us in the halls with your queries, concerns and suggestions. I have ideas and plans for this academic year, but it may take longer to make things happen, or some ideas may die before they even get to form. What is important is that you realize that this is your campus and that you can make or break what takes place. Attend the events, get the ski passes, use the discounts. Don't just drop \$45 into the bucket and walk away.

Bush uses Michigan power plant to highlight 'Clear Skies' initiative



By William Douglas and Seth Borenstein
Knight Ridder Newspapers

MONROE, Mich. — President Bush hailed a coal-powered power plant in Monroe, Mich., on September 15th as a clear example of how his efforts to clean the air and boost energy are good for the environment and the economy. But his arguments were attacked by environmental critics and undermined by data from the Environmental Protection Agency.

Bush's message was delivered from a Detroit Edison power plant to highlight his "Clear Skies" initiative. It aims to cut government regulations that hamper older plants from getting upgrades needed to improve energy efficiency and reduce polluting emissions.

The Clear Skies measure would phase in caps on emissions of nitrogen oxide and sulfur from coal-burning plants beginning in 2010. It also would put the first controls on mercury releases. In addition, the administration finished new rules last month that would make it easier for factories and other industrial facilities to upgrade without adding expensive equipment to lower pollution.

Bush said the Monroe plant is "a living example of why" his administration is seeking to change environmental rules. Five years ago, the plant embarked on a plan to change the blades on its turbines to make it more efficient, Bush said. But the plant delayed the improvements after an EPA review led to a complicated ruling about the planned change, the president said.

"The rules created too many hurdles and it hurts the working people," Bush said.

Environmental groups contend that Bush's policies weaken the Clean Air Act and will not cut the emissions that contribute to smog and global warming.

"It is fitting that President Bush would pick one of the dirtiest power plants in America to tout his so-called 'Clear Skies' plan," said Angela Ledford, Director of Clear the Air, a project created by several environmental groups. "The only thing clear about his plan is that it will allow the nation's oldest and dirtiest power plants, like this one in Monroe, to continue to pollute and jeopardize people's health in years to come."

Bush said a new EPA report showed a 48 percent drop nationally in six pollutants in the past three decades. The amount of nitrogen oxide, a key ingredient in smog, dropped 13 percent from 2000 to 2002, the EPA reported.

But missing from the president's speech and buried deep within the EPA report was the key fact on smog: The number of days when smog levels violated federal health standards has increased since the president took office.

The EPA's internal records, which it shares with state air officials, show that after decreasing through the 1990s, the number of smog days increased in 2001 and jumped dramatically in 2002.

In 2000 there were 519 smog violations nationwide and 537 in 2001. The total increased 31 percent to 706 in 2002. For this year, through July 31, the number of smog violations is at 500, according to EPA data.

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intramural program will definitely help start things off.

Attempts to get such a facility have been unsuccessful in the past because the project was viewed as a lower priority than academic projects when it came to funding. It is really the partnership with the National Guard that makes this possible.

Students are encouraged to get involved with this project. Representatives of UAS and the National Guard will speak at the groundbreaking, Nov. 8 at 2 p.m., which will be open to the public. Meetings will be held next spring to gain more feedback about what students hope to see once construction is completed.

Students continued from page 4

proximately 54 percent, were retained in their sophomore year.

However, according to Orazem, these retention rates are somewhat misleading. Retention is a measure traditionally based on the number of first-time, full-time degree seeking freshmen. "This is such a small portion of the UAS student population," said Orazem. In order to get more accurate retention data, Orazem is working to collect information on the non-traditional student population, such as the large numbers of part-time degree seeking students.

To help improve overall retention, Orazem has worked collaboratively with the Dean of Students to design a long-term retention plan for UAS. The plan consists of the following four components: increased contact and quality of overall advising services, enhanced data management, implementation of student leadership/peer mentor programs, and increased and enhanced Native student recruitment and retention efforts.

Under this plan, Orazem has implemented or enhanced several programs. One key difference this year is that the Learning Center staff are now expected to report to the Vice-Provost. Though the Learning Center has been successful in assisting students in their academics, this new arrangement will allow a more thorough tracking of student progress, according to Orazem. Essentially, this effort will "close the loop" and incorporate the Learning Center into retention activities.

In addition, this is the second year of the Student Leadership Program. The program identifies students that demonstrate leadership potential and helps them to hone their

Sucharzewski Originals

By Alan Douglas Sucharzewski



Happy Halloween!

skills. After completing the program, students are ready to take on important roles within the university. Many of the participating students are now serving as Student Ambassadors, Student Government officials, Teaching Assistants, and Community Advisors.

"The Leadership Program has allowed me and other students to become more actively involved in different organizations on campus," says Jamie Atkinson, one of the first year participants of the program. "I probably would not be involved as much as I am if it was not for the Leadership Program."

Another key element in student retention, though not under Orazem's jurisdiction, is freshmen orientation. According to Jodi Hickenlooper, an Academic Advisor at UAS, the first six weeks of freshmen year are essential to retention. "Freshmen orientation allows the students to make connections with the university, staff, and students," said Hickenlooper of the program.

This year's orientation varied little from last year's, with one key exception. "This year we had a more involved parent component than in previous years," said Hickenlooper. "This allowed parents to get to know the university as well."



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